

that the two matrixes are separated by space and care must be taken for sufficient spacing to prevent diffusion.

With respect to the '394 patent, the Examiner states that the reference teaches a transdermal therapeutic system for the administration of a mixture of steroid sex hormones comprising of two active ingredients containing matrix layers arranged side by side wherein one matrix is loaded with gestodene and the other is loaded with estrogen and that they are separated by a separate cover layer and the system as a whole is covered by a removable protective layer.

With respect to the '736 patent, the Examiner states that it teaches an active substance containing plaster for controlling the administration of active substances to the skin, wherein the plaster contains a backing layer, an active substance reservoir divided perpendicularly to the skin contact surface of the plaster and having at least one active substance, contact adhesive on the skin contact layer and a removable protective layer. The Examiner deems that this and the '931 patent do not teach the size or the space that separates the two matrixes but that the claim of size is not patentable. With respect to the '394 patent, the Examiner states the same short comings as well as the '736 patent but that the size is not critical.

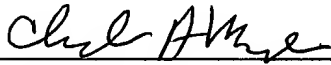
Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection since the references cited by the Examiner do not render obvious applicant's invention which is directed to a

device for transdermic administration of two active ingredients comprising a compartment (A), containing an adhesive polymer matrix containing the first active ingredient and a compartment (B), containing an adhesive polymer matrixes containing the second active ingredient, with each polymer matrix being covered with an individual protective film a and a' and compartments (A) and (B) are supported on a peel off protective film at a distance of 1 to 10 mm apart. This is in no way suggested by the Prior Art cited by the Examiner because compartments (A) and (B) of applicant's invention are covered directly by a single peel off protective film. This means that when the protective film is removed, you then have two separate patches that need to be fixed on the skin and this is in no way taught by the Prior Art cited by the Examiner.

Applicants' device have compartments A and B supported by a single peel off protective film and compartments A and B are separated by an empty space of 1 to 10 mm. None of the cited references show a single peel off protective film but only by two separate and distinct films and therefore, Applicants' invention is not taught and withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims point out Applicants' patentable contribution. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Hedman and Costigan



Charles A. Muserlian #19,683
Attorney for Applicants
Tel. 212 302 8989

CAM:mlp
Enclosures